

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

the suggestion that they should make a fictitious election. Cardinal de Luna's own account of the matter is that they did not wish to elect an Italian, but thought the Archbishop a sufficient man, and that if, when they were at liberty, the cardinals agreed, he would be re-elected; if not, they assumed that he would abdicate. For his own part, he was not moved by fear ; but, seeing the cardinals agreed to satisfy the people, he proposed him and voted for him with the intention that, in any case, he would be content that he should be Pope.¹ It is evident that the cardinals thought that they had done their best, though they would probably have made a different choice under different circumstances. They had made a genuine attempt to satisfy the Romans, while not compromising the dignity of the Sacred College. It is questionable whether, at this moment, more than a small minority among them considered that the election was invalid, though the Cardinal of Glandèves seems to have protested from the outset that he had only acted from fear of death.

Either to gain time, or because the Archbishop had not yet accepted his election, the cardinals did not forthwith proclaim the new pontiff. The uproar in the piazza began again. Orsini, whose office it was to announce the election, advanced to the window, accompanied by the Cardinals of Florence and Geneva—the Bishop of Marseilles, who had completely lost his head with terror, incessantly imploring them to name a Roman. “O Romans,” shouted Orsini to the crowd, “if you do not have a Pope you will like by the evening, you can cut me into pieces.” A deafening roar of “Roman, Roman, we will have a Roman,” was the answer—perhaps raised in part by the retainers of the Cardinal's own family in his interest. The Archbishop of Ban himself, who had been summoned to the palace together with Agapito Colonna and other Roman prelates, also appeared on the scene, apparently at another window, and exhorted the crowd to keep calm.² This done, the cardinals took a hasty meal, and ¹ His testimony in Sorbelli, *op. at.*, pp. 251, 252.

² So at least the Bishop of Todi (Gayet, doc. 17), who adds that lie thinb